



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Democrats face new hurdles in legal fight over redistricting

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI

The fight over redrawing political maps is just ramping up in state legislatures and nonpartisan commissions around the country. But both Republicans and Democrats already are planning for major showdowns in the courts.

For months, Democrats and Republicans have been laying the groundwork for a complex, 50-state legal battle over the once-a-decade process of redistricting. Both parties are preparing for a changed legal climate — where federal courts are newly hostile to claims of unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering and state courts could create a patchwork of rul-

ings. And it will all play out in a tightened timeframe, thanks to pandemic-related delays.

Experts say that adds up a challenging landscape for Democrats, who have in the past won major court victories by proving Republicans deliberately used maps to disenfranchise Democratic voters. Some are predicting far fewer dramatic court interventions, despite plans for a more aggressive strategy. "There will be a lot of litigation, but in a lot of ways the tools will be less sharp than they used to be," said Michael Li of the Brennan Center for Social Justice in New York City.

Continued on next page



In this June 22, 2021, file photo, an aide carries a sign to the Senate floor before test vote on the For the People Act, a sweeping bill that would overhaul the election system and voting rights, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press



J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com - Closed Mon
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com

Sharing Menu \$50 per couple

2 appetizers + 1 Main dish + 1 Dessert



Join us to celebrate the last Sunday of the month with an exquisite Brunch Buffet at Solanio

BRUNCH MENU

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH

UNLIMITED MIMOSAS

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL 527.2699 OR 527.2222 | L.G. SMITH BOULEVARDS #107 PALM BEACH, ARUBA



Craving
a Good
Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas, Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire... Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

IT's Time for an extraordinary steak!

Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm

Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

**NAAT molecular (PCR):
Result in 30 minutes!**

Antigen Test: \$50

PCR Test also available




MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 10:00 PM) Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
Budget Car Rental near Soprano's Piano Bar (5:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Continued from Front

Democrats began filing preemptive lawsuits in April, well ahead of last week's release of the Census' detailed population data used to draw the lines for Congress, statehouses and school districts around the country. Still, the most significant lawsuits are yet to come, and probably won't be filed until states begin to produce maps over the next few months.

After the 2010 redistricting cycle, courts eventually tossed out maps drawn by Republicans in four states. The courts found Republicans improperly used voters' race and party affiliations to draw lines that favored their candidates — a practice known as gerrymandering. The judges redrew the maps in Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas to give Democrats a better chance of winning congressional seats. Without that intervention, the GOP would currently control the House of Representatives.

But legal experts are skeptical there will be such dramatic reversals in court this time. They note that the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court has already cut off one avenue for legal challenges, ruling that striking down partisan gerrymanders is no longer



Home lots are prepared for sale in a new neighborhood, Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, in The Villages, Fla. Home lots are prepared for sale in a new neighborhood, Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, in The Villages, Fla.

Associated Press

the role of federal courts. That makes it less likely that courts intervene, experts said.

The one way the dynamic could change is if Congress passes an ambitious election bill known as the For the People Act, which would, among other provisions, outlaw partisan gerrymandering. But the legislation is stuck in the Senate, where Democrats have been reluctant to change rules to eliminate the 60-vote threshold needed to overcome a Republican filibuster blocking the measure.

The longer odds of litigation are particularly ominous for Democrats, who start the process at a significant disadvantage. They control

line-drawing in states with 75 House seats, while the GOP controls the process in states with 187 seats.

Democrats "have a lot more incentive to litigate because they would have a lot more to gain," said Jason Torchinsky, general counsel to the National Republican Redistricting Trust. Kelly Ward Burton, executive director of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which coordinates litigation for that party, agreed that Democrats will be aggressive. "We fully anticipate being in court in the states where Republicans control the redistricting process and where they intend to gerrymander," she said.

Burton said she's not too

concerned about the Supreme Court's 2019 ruling that federal courts cannot overturn partisan gerrymandering, because racial gerrymandering remains illegal under federal law. In the states Democrats are most worried about where the GOP controls the process — Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Texas — party affiliation often runs along racial lines, with Black, Latino and Asian American voters more likely to be Democratic and white voters more likely to be Republican.

But Li warned that's a double-edged sword. Democrats can argue Republican gerrymanders are racial, rather than partisan, but GOP lawyers can just tell judges they were following the Supreme Court's direction and looking only at party, not race. "The Supreme Court has created this weird binary — if it's on the racial side, it's bad, but if it's on the partisan side, it's okay," he said.

Republicans in the North Carolina legislature — who have complete control over the process because the state's Democratic governor cannot veto a redistricting bill — have already taken advantage of that dynamic by formally declaring they won't use racial data in drawing lines.

Tom Saenz, president of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said he still expects there to be plenty of successful racial gerrymandering cases, especially because populations of voters of color swelled so significantly in the recent census data. The Voting Rights Act still requires the creation of majority-minority districts in areas where a compact legislative district could be drawn that way, and due to the continued growth of several racial and ethnic groups there are more of those places than ever before, Saenz said.

That won't always help Democrats — Saenz notes that, in some states like California, his group has fought with white Democrats over the creation of majority Latino districts. And he noted another obstacle — the tight timelines of redistricting this decade. The Census data used to draw the maps was released six months late due to COVID-19 and legal disputes over how the Trump administration ran the survey. That means courts may only have a few weeks to act before the 2022 elections formally kick off with deadlines to file to run in state primaries. Often, redistricting cases take months if not years to decide. □



Radisson BLU ARUBA

Explore Aruba's Newest Rooftop Restaurant

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

OPEN DAILY FROM 7AM



[@radissonbluaruba](https://www.instagram.com/radissonbluaruba) | T: 526-5000 | concierge@radissonbluaruba.com

U.S. to erase student debt for those with severe disabilities

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

The Biden administration announced Thursday it will automatically erase student loan debt for more than 300,000 Americans with severe disabilities that leave them unable to earn significant incomes.

The move will wipe out more than \$5.8 billion in debt, according to the Education Department, and it marks the start of a broader overhaul of a program that has been criticized for having overly burdensome rules.

"We've heard loud and clear from borrowers with disabilities and advocates about the need for this change and we are excited to follow through on it," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement.

The federal government offers student debt relief for people who are "totally and permanently disabled" and have limited incomes. But the current rules require them to submit documentation of their disability and undergo a three-year monitoring period to prove they're earning little pay. Tens of thousands of people have been dropped



Education Secretary Miguel Cardona speaks to press after a visit to P.S. 5 Port Morris, a Bronx elementary school, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021 in New York.

Associated Press

from the program and had their loans reinstated simply because they failed to submit proof of their earnings, however, and critics say the complex rules deter some from applying.

Advocates have pressed the Education Department to eliminate the monitoring period entirely and to provide automatic debt relief to people who the Social

Security Administration already identifies as permanently disabled.

Under the new action, both demands will be met. Starting in September, the Education Department will start erasing student debt for 323,000 Americans identified in Social Security records as being permanently disabled.

Borrowers will be notified

once they have been approved for relief. All of the loans are expected to be discharged by the end of the year.

The department also plans to eliminate the program's three-year monitoring period, which was previously suspended during the pandemic. That change is expected to be cemented during a federal rulemak-

ing process set to start in October, the agency said.

"This is going to be a smooth process for our borrowers," Cardona said in a call with reporters. "They're not going to have to be applying for it or getting bogged down by paperwork."

Advocates celebrated the change as a victory. Aaron Ament, president of the National Student Legal Defense Network, called it a "life-changing" step.

"This is a huge moment for hundreds of thousands of borrowers with disabilities who can now move on with their lives and won't be trapped in a cycle of debt," he said.

Democrats in Congress said it was the right move. Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, said borrowers shouldn't face paperwork and other administrative hurdles if the federal government already knows they're eligible for loan forgiveness.

"With this simple and sensible change, more than 320,000 borrowers and their families are being freed from the burden of student loans that they should not have to repay," Scott said in a statement. □

Three senators test positive for COVID in breakthrough cases

By KEVIN FREKING
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Three senators said Thursday they have tested positive for COVID-19 despite being vaccinated, a high-profile collection of breakthrough cases that comes as the highly infectious delta variant spreads rapidly across the United States. Sens. Angus King, I-Maine, Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., all said they have tested positive for the virus. Almost every member of the Senate spent long hours together on the chamber's floor last week in an all-night session of budget votes before leaving town for August recess.

King said he began feeling feverish Wednesday and took a COVID test at his

doctor's suggestion. "While I am not feeling great, I'm definitely feeling much better than I would have without the vaccine," King said.

Wicker's office said he tested positive for the virus Thursday morning.

"Senator Wicker is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, is in good health, and is being treated by his Tupelo-based physician," a statement from his staff read. "He is isolating, and everyone with whom Senator Wicker has come in close contact recently has been notified."

Hickenlooper announced his positive test a few hours later.

"I feel good but will isolate per docs instructions. I'm grateful for the vaccine

(& the scientists behind it!) for limiting my symptoms," Hickenlooper tweeted. "If you haven't gotten your shot—get it today! And a booster when it's available too!"

The breakthrough cases emerged the day after U.S. health officials announced plans to dispense COVID-19 booster shots to Americans. They said the shots are needed to shore up their protection against the delta variant amid signs that the vaccines' effectiveness is waning over time.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., had announced Aug. 2 that he had tested positive for COVID-19 despite being vaccinated. "Sending best wishes for a speedy recovery to my



In this June 18, 2021, file photo, U.S. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, speaks at Acadia National Park in Winter Harbor, Maine.

Associated Press

good friends and colleagues," he tweeted Thursday.

"If you have not already done so please #GetVaccinated," Graham added. Dozens of members of Congress have reported

testing positive for COVID-19. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Texas, 67, died from the disease early this year while Rep.-elect Luke Letlow, R-La., 41, died in December before being sworn into office. □

Boy Scouts get conditional approval of \$850M bankruptcy deal

By **RANDALL CHASE**

DOVER, Del. (AP) — A Delaware judge ruled Thursday that the Boy Scouts of America can enter into a pivotal \$850 million agreement that the organization hopes to use as a springboard to emerging from bankruptcy later this year, but rejected two key provisions of the deal.

Following three days of testimony and arguments, the judge granted the BSA's request to enter into an agreement involving the national Boy Scouts organization, roughly 250 local Boy Scout councils, and attorneys representing some 70,000 men who say they were sexually abused as youngsters decades ago while engaged in Boy Scout-related activities. The agreement calls for the Boy Scouts and local councils to contribute \$850 million into a fund for abuse claimants.

The agreement was opposed by insurers who issued policies to the Boy Scouts and local councils, attorneys representing thousands of other abuse victims, and various church denominations that have sponsored local Boy Scout troops.

It was not immediately clear how the judge's ruling will affect the future of



In this Feb. 18, 2020, file photo, Boy Scouts of America uniforms are displayed in the retail store at the headquarters for the French Creek Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Summit Township, Pa.

Associated Press

the bankruptcy case, given that she rejected two significant provisions in the agreement.

While ruling that BSA officials exercised proper business judgment as required under the law in entering into the agreement, the judge refused to grant a request that the Boy Scouts be allowed to pay millions of dollars in legal fees and expenses of attorneys hired by law firms that represent tens of thousands of abuse claimants.

She also denied the BSA's request under the agree-

ment for permission to withdraw from an April agreement in which insurance company The Hartford would pay \$650 million into the fund for abuse claimants in exchange for being released from any further liability.

The Boy Scouts of America, based in Irving, Texas, sought bankruptcy protection in February 2020 in an effort to halt hundreds of individual lawsuits and create a huge compensation fund for thousands of men who were molested as youngsters by scoutmasters

or other leaders. Although the organization was facing 275 lawsuits at the time of the filing, it is now facing some 82,500 sexual abuse claims in the bankruptcy case.

Under the agreement, the Boy Scouts would contribute up to \$250 million in cash and property to a fund for victims of child sexual abuse. The local councils, which run day-to-day operations for Boy Scout troops, would contribute \$600 million. In addition, the national organization and local councils would trans-

fer their rights to Boy Scout insurance policies to the victims fund. In return, they would be released from future liability for abuse claims.

Opponents of the deal argued that BSA officials failed to fully inform themselves or exercise proper business judgment in entering into the agreement. They noted that the Boy Scouts board of directors never adopted a resolution approving the agreement, and that decision-making authority was delegated to an executive committee and a handful of people on a bankruptcy task force. The judge rejected two controversial provisions in the agreement that opponents had highlighted.

One allows the Boy Scouts to back out of a settlement they reached in April with one of their insurers, The Hartford. The Hartford agreed to pay \$650 million into the victims fund in exchange for being released from any further obligations. The Boy Scouts sought to withdraw from the agreement after attorneys for abuse claimants, who estimate the liability exposure of BSA insurers in the billions of dollars, maintained that their clients would never support a plan that includes it. □

30 years after last hurricane, New England braces for Henri



Construction worker Ricardo Reyes helps get Vanny Lima, left, and her children, Luca, 7, and Alli, 4, to safety after her car become stuck in rising floodwater on Quinsigamond Avenue near Crompton Park in Worcester, Mass., Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — On the 30th anniversary of the last

hurricane to make a direct hit on New England, the region warily braced Thursday for Tropical Storm Henri as it gathered strength and headed for the northeastern U.S.

Forecasters said Henri will likely strengthen into a hurricane in the Atlantic as it approaches southern New England early next week, with the first coastal impacts possible on Sunday. Henri was expected to become a hurricane offshore late Friday along a path that will likely take it parallel to the East Coast. Its center was forecast to approach parts of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Cape Cod and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard

by Monday.

Exactly 30 years ago Thursday, Bob made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane in 1991 with sustained winds of 90 miles per hour and wind gusts up to 138 mph. At least 17 people were killed in the storm, the costliest in New England with more than \$1.5 billion in property damage — nearly \$3 billion in today's dollars. The National Weather Service warned of the potential for damaging winds and widespread coastal flooding from Henri. Authorities urged people to secure their boats, fuel up their vehicles and stock up on canned goods in case the storm makes a direct hit.

Meteorologists said Henri's track remained uncertain, with some models suggesting it might pass offshore and others putting it over Cape Cod or even Boston, possibly as a Category 1 hurricane.

New Englanders had to begin thinking about Henri even as the remnants of Tropical Storm Fred lashed the region, unleashing drenching rains that stranded drivers as floodwaters swamped their vehicles. In Worcester, Massachusetts, the region's second-largest city, a woman and her two young children had to be carried out of their stalled car by a Good Samaritan after waters rose to the vehicle's windows. □

Allies embraced Biden. Did Kabul lay bare "great illusion"?

By RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Well before U.S. President Joe Biden took office early this year, the European Union's foreign policy chief sang his praises and hailed a new era in cooperation. So did almost all of Washington's Western allies.

The EU's Josep Borrell was glad to see the end of the Trump era, with its America First, and sometimes America Only policy, enthralled by Biden's assertion that he would "lead, not merely by the example of our power, but by the power of our example."

Sunday's collapse of Kabul, triggered by Biden's decision to get out of Afghanistan and a U.S. military unable to contain the chaos since, certainly put a stop to that. Even some of his biggest fans are now churning out criticism.

Borrell was among them, this time aghast at Biden's contention that "our mission in Afghanistan was never supposed to have been nation-building," coming in the wake of Western efforts over much of the past two decades to sow the seeds of the rule of law and assure protection for women and minorities.

"State-building was not the purpose? Well, this is arguable," a dejected Borrell said of Biden's stance, which has come under criticism in much of Europe.

And for many Europeans steeped in soft power di-



In this Friday, June 11, 2021 file photo, leaders of the G7 pose during a group photo at the G7 meeting at the Carbis Bay Hotel in Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall, England.

Associated Press

plomacy to export Western democratic values, Biden's assertion that, "our only vital national interest in Afghanistan remains today what it has always been: preventing a terrorist attack on American homeland," could have come from a Trump speech.

EU Council President Charles Michel underscored the different stances when he said in a tweet Thursday that the "rights of Afghanis, notably women & girls, will remain our key concern: all EU instruments to support them should be used."

French Parliamentarian Nathalie Loiseau, a former Europe minister for President Emmanuel Macron, put the

unexpected EU-Biden disconnect more bluntly: "We lived a little bit the great illusion," she said. "We thought America was back, while in fact, America withdraws."

It was no better in Germany, where a leading member of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Union bloc, Bavaria Gov. Markus Soeder, called on Washington to provide funding and shelter to those fleeing Afghanistan, since "the United States of America bear the main responsibility for the current situation."

Even in the United Kingdom, which has always prided itself on a its "special relationship" with Washington and now, more than

ever, needs U.S. goodwill to overcome the impact of leaving the EU, barbs were coming from all angles.

Former British Army chief Richard Dannatt said, "the manner and timing of the Afghan collapse is the direct result of President Biden's decision to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the 20th anniversary of 9/11."

"At a stroke, he has undermined the patient and painstaking work of the last five, 10, 15 years to build up governance in Afghanistan, develop its economy, transform its civil society and build up its security forces," Dannatt said Wednesday in Parliament.

"The people had a glimpse

of a better life — but that has been torn away."

Biden has pointed to the Trump administration deal negotiated with the Taliban 18 months earlier in Doha, Qatar, which he says bound him to withdraw U.S. troops, as setting the stage for the chaos now engulfing the country.

Still, Biden putting much of the blame on Afghan forces for not protecting their nation has not gone down well with Western allies, either.

Conservative Parliament member Tom Tugendhat, who fought in Afghanistan, was one of several British lawmakers taking offense.

"To see their commander-in-chief call into question the courage of men I fought with, to claim that they ran, is shameful," Tugendhat said.

Chris Bryant, from the opposition Labour Party, called Biden's remarks about Afghan soldiers, "some of the most shameful comments ever from an American president."

In Prague this week, Czech president Milos Zeman said that, "by withdrawing from Afghanistan, the Americans have lost their status of global leader."

But despite all the criticism, there is no doing without the United States on the global stage. America remains vital to the Western allies in a series of other issues, in particular taking action against global warming. □

Nepalese Gurkhas end hunger strike over UK military pensions

LONDON (AP) — A 13-day hunger strike by former Nepalese Gurkha soldiers came to an end Thursday after the British government agreed to enter talks with the Nepalese Embassy over equal pensions for veterans.

The agreement came a day after one of the veterans, 60-year-old Dhan Gurung, was admitted to the hospital with heart problems.

Gurkha soldiers, who are recruited from Nepal, have served the British Army for

more than 200 years, including during both world wars and most recently in Afghanistan. They have a reputation as hard and loyal fighters, and are known for the trademark curved kukri blades they carry sheathed on their belts.

The hunger strikers were part of a group of protesters calling for equal pensions for Gurkhas who retired before 1997 and are not eligible for a full British armed forces pension.

"Our primary concern is always the health and wel-

fare of our serving personnel and veterans, and this strike was not a course of action we encouraged," the Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

"We look forward to meeting with the group next month alongside the Nepali ambassador to move forward together," the ministry added.

The Gurkha Equal Rights campaign group said in a tweet that the hunger strike has been called off after "13 days of fast unto death." □



In this Wednesday Aug. 18, 2021 file photo, Gurkha military veterans take part in a hunger strike relay outside Downing Street in London.

Associated Press

Hezbollah says Iranian fuel tanker to sail to Lebanon soon

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said Thursday that an Iranian fuel tanker will sail toward Lebanon "within hours," warning Israel and the United States not to intercept it.

The delivery, organized by the Iran-backed Hezbollah, would violate U.S. sanctions imposed on Tehran after former President Donald Trump pulled America out of a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers three years ago.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech that the tanker, carrying diesel fuel, will be followed by others to help ease Lebanon's crippling fuel shortage that has paralyzed the country for weeks.

Lebanon is going through an unprecedented economic meltdown, including a severe fuel crisis.

Hours after Nasrallah's comments, Lebanese President Michel Aoun's office announced that U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea told him the United States would help Lebanon



Hezbollah supporters listen to their leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as he speaks via a video link during Ashoura, the Shiite Muslim commemoration marking the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala in present-day Iraq in the 7th century, in southern Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

get electricity from Jordan and facilitate the flow of Egyptian gas through Jordan and Syria to northern Lebanon.

Shea told Aoun that negotiations are ongoing with

the World Bank to pay for Egyptian gas and to fix cables and pipelines that will be used, according to the statement.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S.

State Department or the American Embassy in Beirut. Shea, the U.S. ambassador, spoke about the crisis in Lebanon with the English service of the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV on Thursday.

In his speech, Nasrallah did not say how Lebanon would pay for the fuel. Earlier, he had said Tehran could be paid in Lebanese pounds. The currency has lost more than 90% of its value since the country's economic crisis began in October 2019.

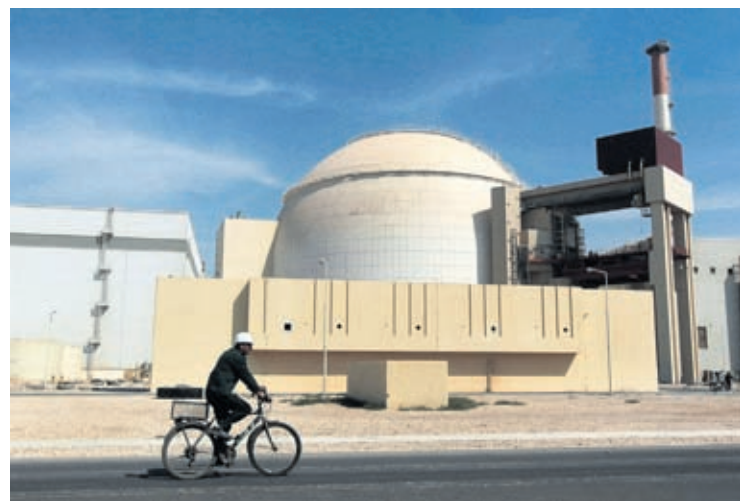
"I would like to say that at the moment the tanker sails out ... it will be considered in Lebanese territory," Nasrallah said and blamed the West for what he called an undeclared siege of Lebanon that triggered the current crisis.

Hezbollah and its allies accuse the U.S. and some Gulf Arab nations of punishing Lebanon because of Hezbollah's military activities in other countries, including Syria and Iraq.

Neighboring Syria has blamed Israel for mysterious attacks that have targeted oil tankers heading from Iran to Syria this past year.

For weeks, Lebanese have been waiting in long lines at petrol stations to fill their tanks. □

Europeans express 'grave concern' over IAEA report on Iran



In this Oct. 26, 2010 file photo, a worker rides a bicycle in front of the reactor building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, just outside the southern city of Bushehr.

Associated Press

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The foreign ministries of Germany, France and Britain on Thursday expressed "grave concern" over the latest report by the UN's nuclear watchdog that said Iran continues to produce uranium metal, which can be used in the production of a

nuclear bomb.

The International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna confirmed earlier this week that Iran has produced uranium metal enriched up to 20% for the first time, and has significantly increased its production capacity of uranium enriched up to 60%.

The production of ura-

nium metal is prohibited by the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, which promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear program, and is meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

Germany, France and Britain — the western European members of the JCPOA — called the moves by Iran "serious violations" of its commitment under the JCPOA. They said that "both are key steps in the development of a nuclear weapon and Iran has no credible civilian need for either measure."

Iran insists it is not interested in developing a bomb, and that the uranium metal is for its civilian nuclear program.

"Our concerns are deepened by the fact that Iran has significantly limited IAEA access through withdraw-

ing from JCPOA-agreed monitoring arrangements," the joint statement added. The U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the nuclear deal in 2018, with then-President Donald Trump saying it needed to be renegotiated.

Since then, Tehran has been steadily increasing its violations of the deal to put pressure on the other signatories to provide more incentives to Iran to offset crippling American sanctions re-imposed after the U.S. pullout.

The western Europeans, as well as Russia and China, have been working to try to preserve the accord.

U.S. President Joe Biden has said he is open to rejoining the pact, but that Iran needs to return to its restrictions, while Iran has insisted that the U.S. must drop all sanctions.

Months of talks have been held in Vienna with the remaining parties of the

JCPOA shuttling between delegations from Iran and the U.S.

The last round of talks ended in June with no date set for their resumption.

Following the latest IAEA report on the increase in uranium metal production, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said earlier this week that the move was "unconstructive and inconsistent with a return to mutual compliance."

In Thursday's statement the three western European powers said that "Iran's activities are all the more troubling given the fact talks in Vienna have been interrupted upon Tehran's request for two months now and that Iran has not yet committed to a date for their resumption."

"While refusing to negotiate, Iran is instead establishing facts on the ground which make a return to the JCPOA more complicated," the statement said. □

Gangs abduct 2 doctors in Haiti, including a needed surgeon

By MARK STEVENSON and EVENS SANON

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP) — Two doctors at hospitals treating earthquake victims in Haiti's capital have been kidnapped, forcing one of the institutions to declare a two-day shutdown in protest, officials said Thursday. The abductions Tuesday and Wednesday dealt a major blow to attempts to control criminal violence that has threatened disaster response efforts in Port-au-Prince.

Dr. Workens Alexandre, who was seized, was among the country's few orthopedic surgeons, desperately needed for quake victims with broken limbs.

An official at the Bernard Mevs Hospital said 45 of the 48 quake victims being treated at the facility needed orthopedic surgery.

Gangs in the rough Martissant neighborhood on the capital's outskirts had announced a truce earlier in the week to allow aid efforts to through to the southwestern part of Haiti, which has hit hardest by Saturday's earthquake.

It was unclear if those gangs were involved in the latest abductions, but the founder of the DASH network of affordable hospitals, Dr. Ronald La Roche, said criminals have engaged in kidnappings far beyond Martissant.

The Tuesday kidnapping of another doctor, an obstetrician who was on his way to perform an emergency cesarean delivery, occurred in Petionville, long considered one of the safer and wealthier areas of the capital. The doctor's patient and her child both died due to the delay in treatment.

"We are furious at these people," La Roche said of the kidnappers. "They are responsible for the death of this woman and her child." Of the supposed truce with gangs in Martisan, he said "we cannot depend on that."

"We feel that the gangsters are getting more daring. They are working now in Petionville, the center of the city," said La Roche,



People injured in a car accident, sitting right, wait with others injured during the earthquake for x-rays at the General Hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

whose network of eight hospital and clinics will close to nonemergency cases to protest the kidnapping.

The DASH hospitals are treating 27 earthquake victims, and they — and any emergency cases — will continue to receive care.

Kidnappers have contacted the families of both doctors, but there is no information on ransom demands.

The official at the Bernard Mevs Hospital, who asked not to be identified because of safety concerns, said the problem has gotten so bad that a program has been set up so that doctors can stay in hospital rooms for two or three days to avoid the risk of travel.

The quake caused killed nearly 2,200 people and injured over 12,000. The abductions in Port-au-Prince directly affect the transfer of patients from the overwhelmed hospitals in the south to the capital, the last hope for the most severely injured.

Prime Minister Ariel Henri, himself the former head of neurosurgery at Bernard Mevs Hospital, had already

recognized that the government cannot depend on the gang truce.

"I have already given orders that for traveling from Port-au-Prince to the south,

security be provided on the route from Martisan to the worst hit areas," he said Wednesday.

Meanwhile a group of 18 Colombian volunteer search-and-rescue workers had to be escorted out of the quake-hit city of Jeremie under police protection after a rumor circulated that they had been involved in the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

That killing, which is still unsolved, is suspected of being carried out by a group of Colombian mercenaries. The Colombians rescuers had arrived only a day before. Local media reported that a Jeremie city council member went on a radio station and incited people to go after the Colombian team, who had patches on their uniforms with the colors of the country's flag. They took refuge at a civil defense office.

The head of the Jeremie civil protection office, Wadson Montisino Cledanon, confirmed that the search team had been taken to the local airport with police protection. □

MIRA SOLO
LOBBY BAR & RESTAURANT

Enjoy Live Music

EVERY NIGHT!
7PM - 10PM


Happy Hour
5pm - 6pm
2 for 1 on Select Cocktails


Hilton
ARUBA CARIBBEAN RESORT & CASINO

HILTON ARUBA CARIBBEAN RESORT & CASINO
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba
hiltonaruba.com | @HiltonAruba

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba: Their brand culture makes them unique, join this Culinary Voyage

PALM BEACH — Paradise is a place where you encounter unforgettable experiences. From a culinary perspective, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is your only choice. The brand's culture is oriented towards the guests' experience and supporting local community at the same time. "At The Ritz-Carlton the genuine care and comfort of our guests is our highest mission and we need to anticipate and fulfill their unexpressed wishes and needs. We focus on that once -in- a -lifetime luxury experience," states Executive Chef Rafael Lopez Aliaga.

Lopez Aliaga has been working for the Ritz-Carlton company for fourteen years and the last four years he has been in Aruba. The Peruvian chef is clear about it: "We call our employees ladies and gentlemen because only when you take good care of your people can they genuinely care for the guests. And we do. We understand what our guests are looking for and we need to be one step ahead and make a personal connection. Knowing their name and remembering their preferences is what elevates their experience and gives our guests that 'home away from home' sensation."

Lopez Aliaga together with Executive Sous Chef, Stanwick Bloem, oversee the entire culinary department "Our goal is to create the best food experience so that our guests come back every time" says Bloem. The attention for detail at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is exceptional; children are invited into the kitchen to help bake pancakes, the complete staff is intensely trained on allergens and wherever you walk you are greeted with a sincere smile and with a 'Good Day'. This makes you feel very special and lifts up your mood.

Join us on the culinary voyage to paradise:



Australian Wagyu (left) and the Cowboy Steak (right)

Rung 1

BLT Steak, excelling in steaks

Aruban Mitchell Pereira is the Chef de Cuisine of BLT Steak. "We are a modern steakhouse with a menu that offers the best steaks on the island and a weekly menu that appears on our Blackboard to provide guests with the choice to try something different." He is extremely happy that The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba strives to employ as many locals as possible. "I am a young, local chef, ambitious to work with local farmers and fishermen. We offer delicious local lettuce and mouthwatering Aruban cheeses. With us, you get the highest quality with a local touch." When it comes to steaks, his personal favorite is the Dry Aged Kansas City Steak. However, the American Wagyu and Australian Wagyu are succulent as well. For seafood lovers BLT Steak offers East and West coast oysters, caviar, king crab, lobsters and much

more. The Blackboard menu of this week invites you to savor a wonderful Steak tartare, 12oz. Black Angus rib eye, 7oz. Caribbean Seabass, Jalapeño Potato, and a delicious Apple Crumble.



Rung 2

Madero Pool & Beach Grill, whole fish experience

The Ritz-Carlton's philosophy to support the local community is exemplified by their partnership with local fishermen. The impression of travelers of the Caribbean is the white-sandy beaches, waving palm trees and fresh, grilled fish from the sea to their plate; and that is exactly what Madero Pool & Beach Grill offers. "Sharing is caring, families love that," says Bloem. Therefore, the Whole Fish Experience offers a head-to-tail fresh catch of the day, grilled to perfection, and served for two people in its entirety to enjoy. "Of course the fish is deboned yet still presented with head and tail and accompanied by local sides like sweet plantain. Usually, we serve a delicious Red Snapper because this fish has very nice white meat, but it may vary depending on the catch and season." Tropical delight to the extreme we would say because Madero Pool & Beach Grill represents the sea, the white beach and grilled fish as a tasty gift of happiness.

Executive Sous Chef Stanwick Bloem presenting a Whole Local Fish – grilled or fried



Executive Sous Chef Stanwick Bloem presenting a Whole Local Fish – grilled or fried

Continued on Page 9

BINGO WILL RETURN SOON!

50/30 Friday!

We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players every
30 minutes from
7pm to 11:30pm!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood | Subway

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to Midnight | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba: Their brand culture makes them unique, join this Culinary Voyage



Homemade pasta with seasonal fresh ingredients.

Continued from Page 8

Rung 3

Casa Nonna New York

The name means 'Grandmother's House' in Italian. There are only two of them: one in the heart of New York City's Theater District, and the other one is on Aruba. In case you would like to taste what real Italian food with a New York twist is all about, you must come here. The menu is a culmination of traditional Roman and Tuscan fare, highlighted by fresh, local and seasonal ingredients. From salami, cheese and antipasti platters, to house-made pastas, the menu is available à la carte and family style, overflowing with options ideal for sharing. Andiamo a mangiare!



Executive Chef Rafael Lopez Aliaga with tiradito, Tuna Nikkei Ceviche

Rung 4

Divi Sushi Bar & Lounge, dushi Sushi

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba stands out in many aspects, not only with its captivating dishes, but also in creating unforgettable experiences. The resort encompasses the values and philosophy on which they exercise an un-wavering commitment to service. Now, there are many corners in the hotel that can trigger your senses, but there is one place that you just cannot miss: the Divi Sushi Bar & Lounge. At this contemporary bar you will find the finest sushi, ceviche and poke bowls. Pick up your chopsticks and get ready to indulge.

Rung 5

Solanio, strong start

The ultimate start of your day in paradise starts with a breakfast buffet at Solanio. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba takes food safety and guest safety very seriously and adheres to all the necessary protocols.

Lopez Aliaga is delighted to serve the best of the best prepared by amazing talent. "As The Ritz-Carlton, we feel that it is our responsibility to enliven the Aruban culture. My goal is to have our kitchen run by locals combined with international talent. It would be my utmost pride to watch the team grow and share the Aruban culture and knowledge with other Ritz-Carlton's around the world. □



THE RITZ-CARLTON

ARUBA

Emerald Ambassadors honored at Aruba Marriott Ocean Club

PALM BEACH — Aruba has many visitors who have been coming to our island for many consecutive years. Some did not return last year due to the pandemic, but as soon as the borders were open again they were the first ones to come back to their beloved island. As a token of appreciation the Aruba Tourism Authority office on behalf of the government of Aruba takes pride in honoring these loyal

visitors as **Distinguished Visitors, Goodwill Ambassadors** or with the highest honorary title of **Emerald Ambassadors**.

It was the turn of **Mr. John & Mrs. Marilyn Enright**, residents of Cape Coral Florida and guests of the Aruba Marriott Ocean Club to be recognized as loyal visitors. They received the honorary title of Emerald Ambassadors, because they have been coming

to Aruba for over 30 consecutive years.

Marouska Heyliger, representative of the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with members of the Aruba Marriott Ocean Club bestowed the certificate to the Ambassadors and handed some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



New bathrooms are inaugurated at Pius X DIVI & TAMARIJN ARUBA ALL INCLUSIVES partner with FUNDASHON DIVI IMPACT, to make a big difference for elementary school, in Dakota

ORANJESTAD — A few days before school opening in Aruba, new bathrooms were inaugurated at Pius X school, in Dakota, in the presence of the cheerful headmaster, teachers, and support staff.

The bathrooms were renovated by Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive with funds collected by Divi Impact Foundation. According to headmaster Sheila Tromp, the project took just over three weeks, and will contribute greatly to the students' wellbeing and comfort, and to the 61-year-old facility, in general. It gave Ricardo Vrolijk, president, Impact Foundation, and Yanel Olivero, board member and project leader, great pleasure to deliver the upgraded, modern facility on time. They were supported by board members Francis Ridderstap, Maria Esquera, Pearl Lake, and Island Marketing & Promotion Manager, Tabitha Fecunda, as they showed



the project off to members of the local press.

Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts were introduced to Pius X elementary school on the Kids Council platform, an initiative by Dutch Princess Laurentien in which local 6 graders got to brainstorm, resolving adult challenges, in hospitality. The initiative resulted in collaboration beyond the council, and the partners, Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts and Fundashon Divi

Impact, deserve recognition for the ongoing, long term, good work they have been doing for the community. In recent years, work teams consisting of volunteers and professionals have been working at the Pius X school in Dakota, painting, fixing the roof, cleaning and restoring classrooms and the gym hall. A donation of 28 new air-conditioners followed, installed in classrooms which previously offered education under uninsulat-



ed corrugated roof panels. It was a long process that required addition power infrastructure, and a substantial investment. On another occasion, the school received eBoards, the easy-to-use web solution which supports communication and collaboration in the classroom, integrating the latest technology.

In January of 2021, Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive with partner Divi Impact delivered 200 tablets to the eagerly awaiting students who from then on study math and other complicated subjects on an interactive Dutch platform, with their teacher as coach and mentor, helping them through the curriculum at their own pace. That was the last time, the late managing director, Alex Nieuw-meyer, attended a donation celebration. While he has departed, his important work is ongoing.

Divi IMPACT is a non-profit organization that was established on September 2, 2010, with the goal to fundraise for a scholarship fund is used to assist Divi employees and/or their children who wish to pursue a higher education, on island or abroad. The Foundation's goal is to inspire and motivate Divi's company leadership, owners, guests, business partners and employees to donate time, money and resources to help the community in creating a higher standard of living and to enhance the Divi Brand locally, by creating edu-

cational assistance for employees and their kids. Divi IMPACT raises money year round by deducting small amounts from company employee salaries and by soliciting guests' donations. They have invested many thousands of florins in the Pius X school already! Pius X school belongs to SKOA, Stichting Katholiek Onderwijs, the foundation running 15 kindergartens, 25 elementary schools, 5 secondary schools and 1 school for students with special needs. Eighteen of the foundation's learning institutions are still on the list for air-conditioning installation.

The press was invited to visit the elementary school, as representatives of Divi & Tamarijn all-inclusive inaugurated the new bathrooms, with a simple, attractive, and easy to clean design. The support stuff has also been provided with rolling housekeeping carts for their cleaning supplies. As a result of Divi & Tamarijn involvement with the school for seven years, the facility, classrooms and gym hall, are nicely painted and in excellent state of repair, including flowering pots and colorful school-yard designs. The school presented Divi with a token of appreciation. President Vrolijk reports the list of future projects is long; it is continuously compiled, including scholarships for students and recently a Back to School project for supplies. □



HARBOUR HOUSE
Aruba



The New Downtown Living
Get your Own Ocean
Front Condo

**Over 80%
Already
Sold**

(+297) 594 6395

Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba

sales@harbourhousearuba.com

www.harbourhousearuba.com

Old Navy integrates its plus-size women's business

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) —

Gap Inc.'s low-price division Old Navy is overhauling its approach to how it designs and markets to plus-size women, a demographic that many analysts say has been underserved. Starting Friday, Old Navy will be offering every one of its women's styles in all sizes with no price difference. That means sizes 0-28 in stores and up to size 30 online.

The 1,200-store chain will also be displaying its large sizes together with the standard sizes on the floor. The fashions will be displayed on mannequins in sizes four, 12 and 18. Online, the chain is merging its plus size and standard sizes together, with models appearing in all three sizes.

The moves, announced Wednesday, are expected to help Old Navy reach \$10 billion in annual sales by 2023, up from \$8 billion in 2019, company executives said.

Old Navy joins Target,



Pedestrians pass the Old Navy store in the Downtown Crossing shopping area, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

Nordstrom and others, which over the past few years have been adding more plus-size offerings, and many are integrating them next to standard sizes. They're also adding fuller-size mannequins on the selling floor and show-

ing more plus-size models in their marketing.

Still, the common practice for department stores and other retailers is to have separate areas for plus sizes, but they also devote separate sections for petite sizes, says Neil Saunders,

managing director of research firm GlobalData Retail. Walmart, for instance, has a separate plus-size shop on its apparel floors. Over the years, retailers have expanded their offerings to cater to plus-size women. But analysts

believe the commitment vacillated and stores never made this customer base feel part of the shopping experience, often leaving them out of marketing materials.

Analysts believe this time around, the push will be long term as they're under pressure from shoppers to be more inclusive. Clothing retailers are increasingly struggling to attract customers and are looking for new opportunities to pump up sales.

"We have entered at a time when inclusion finally expands beyond race, nationality and income level," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry advisor at NPD Group. "It includes sizes. We have finally gotten there."

"For too long, too many women have not been included in the retail industry. That means if you were a size 16 or 18, which is the average size of a woman in America, you had very limited choice," said Alison Partridge Stickney, head of women's merchandising at Old Navy. □

In unfriendly skies, unruly passenger fines top \$1 million

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

Rowdy airline passengers have now racked up a record \$1 million in potential fines this year, a toll of the tumult in the sky as travelers have returned after most were grounded by the pandemic in 2020.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced the latest cases Thursday, involving 34 travelers who flew between January and May. Their offenses ranged from refusing to wear a face mask, as required by a federal rule, to punching a flight attendant in the nose.

Those are just the latest among dozens of enforcement cases that the FAA called part of its crack-down against passengers who interfere with airline crews.

Airlines have reported about 3,900 incidents of unruly passengers this year,

and three-fourths involve refusal to wear a mask, according to the FAA.

Alcohol is another common factor. American Airlines on Thursday extended its ban on alcohol sales in the main cabin through Jan. 18, matching the timing of the federal mask mandate. American still sells alcohol to passengers in business and first-class sections.

An FAA spokeswoman confirmed that \$1 million is a single-year record for proposed fines against passengers, who can appeal. The FAA has started investigations against 682 travelers this year, smashing the previous high of 310 in 2004. The latest round of cases includes two fines that could top \$40,000.

On a JetBlue flight in May, a man threw his carry-on bag at other passengers, grabbed a flight attendant by the ankles and put his head up her skirt before he

was restrained with plastic ties. The FAA wants to fine him \$45,000.

The FAA is seeking a \$42,000 fine against a man who refused to wear a mask on another JetBlue flight in May and threatened other passengers, including making stabbing gestures toward some. Crew members confiscated a bag containing a substance the man was snorting, then armed themselves with ice mallets before police took him off the plane.

The FAA did not identify any of the passengers, including a man who allegedly punched a flight attendant in the nose during a third JetBlue flight. Although police were called in several cases, it was not clear how many of the passengers called out by FAA face criminal charges.

This month, the head of the FAA asked airport officials around the country to work



In this Feb. 18, 2021 file photo, a passenger wears a face mask to help prevent the spread of the new coronavirus as he waits for a Delta Airlines flight at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta.

Associated Press

with local law enforcement to prosecute more cases. The FAA does not have authority to file criminal charges.

Air travel in the U.S. has returned to nearly 80% of pre-pandemic levels, but airlines have cut the number of flights by a similar amount, resulting in crowd-

ed planes.

Bad weather and lack of crews after airlines cut staff last year have contributed to tens of thousands of canceled and delayed flights this summer, according to figures from tracking service FlightAware, making travel even more stressful than before. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Adorn in

1 Ravines relief

5 "The 45 Inquires

Godfather"

star

11 Diva's

piece

12 Dawn

goddess

13 "The Old

Curiosity

shop" girl

14 Mini

burger

15 Rainy day

wear

17 French

friend

18 Whoop it

up

22 Pocket

beeper

24 Disparag-

ing

25 Hoppy

brew

26 Ignited

27 Ship stops

30 Yarns

32 Man of

morals

33 "— Clear

Day"

34 Home

of the

WNBA's

Aces

38 Shot taker

41 Office

note

42 Wears

down

43 Magnetic

metal

DOWN

1 Street

group

2 Open

space

3 The Huns,

e.g.

4 Bible

dancer

5 Wild party

6 Measuring

aids

7 Out of bed

8 Auction

signal

9 Dr. of

rap

10 Crew

need

16 Knight's

title

19 Hamlet

residents

20 Falco of

TV

21 "Why

don't we!"

22 One of

a bear

trio

23 Lotion

additive

28 Ohio city

29 Some

tires

30 "Mazel —!"

31 Lack of

vitality

35 Pert talk

36 In a

frenzy

37 Some

babies

38 Semicircu-

lar shape

39 Radius

setting

40 Angry

group

8-19

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

K X E Z T Z I Z K M Z Q E V M M Z W V Q I V

Z R N V U A Z N A T Z Q E V M M Z W V Q I V

O V I K D R V Z E Z R N V U A Z N A T

K X E Z T Z I V . P V K Q

O K D N X Z M M K X N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE WORK WILL WAIT WHILE YOU SHOW THE CHILD THE RAINBOW, BUT THE RAINBOW WON'T WAIT WHILE YOU DO THE WORK. — PATRICIA CLIFFORD

D	A	S	H		H	I	H	A	T	S
E	C	H	O		A	C	A	D	I	A
F	R	O	G		B	E	L	O	N	G
Y	E	W		V	I	C	E			
				E	V	I	T	A		B
				A	G	R	E	E		P
				F	A	C	E		O	T
				A	L	A	R	M		E
				R	A	P		A	T	A
					O	D	O	R		E
				F	R	A	N	C	O	
				T	O	P	C	A	T	
				S	W	E	E	P	S	
								O	P	E

Yesterday's answer

EXPLAINER: How social platforms are dealing with the Taliban

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

As the Taliban negotiates with senior politicians and government leaders following its lightning-fast take-over of Afghanistan, U.S. social media companies are reckoning with how to deal with a violent extremist group that is poised to rule a country of 40 million people.

Should the Taliban be allowed on social platforms if they don't break any rules, such as a ban on inciting violence, but instead use it to spread a narrative that they're newly reformed and are handing out soap and medication in the streets? If the Taliban runs Afghanistan, should they also run the country's official government accounts?

And should tech companies in Silicon Valley decide what is — and isn't — a legitimate government? They certainly don't want to. But as the situation unfolds, uncomfortable decisions lie ahead.

DOES THE TALIBAN USE SOCIAL MEDIA?

The Taliban quickly seized power in Afghanistan two weeks before the U.S. was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a two-decade war. The insurgents stormed across the country, capturing all major cities in a matter of days, as Afghan security forces trained and equipped by the U.S. and its allies melted away.

The last time the Taliban was in power in Afghanistan, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube did not exist. Neither did MySpace, for that matter. Internet use in the country was virtually nonexistent with just 0.01% of the population online, according to the World Bank.

In recent years, that number has vastly increased. The Taliban have also increased their online presence, producing slick videos and maintaining official social media accounts. Despite bans, they have found ways to evade restrictions on YouTube,



In this Feb. 10, 2016 photo, Afghans access social media websites at a private internet cafe in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Associated Press

Facebook and WhatsApp. Last year, for instance, they used WhatsApp groups to share pictures of local health officials in white gowns and masks handing out protective masks and bars of soap to locals.

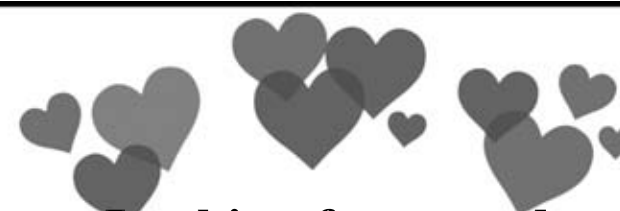
On Twitter, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has been posting regular updates to more than 300,000 followers, including international media. Twitter suspended another account, @AfghPresident, which has served as the nation's de facto official presidential account, pending verification of the account holder's identity.

"There's a realization that winning the war is as much a function of a nonmilitary tool like social media as it is about the bullets," said Sarah Kreps, a law professor at Cornell University who focuses on interna-

tional politics, technology and national security. "Maybe these groups, even from just an instrumental perspective, have realized that beheading people is not a way to win the hearts and minds of the country." WAIT, THE TALIBAN WERE ALLOWED ON TWITTER?

Facebook and YouTube consider the Taliban a terrorist organization and prohibit it from operating accounts. Twitter has not explicitly banned the group, though the company said Tuesday that it will continue to enforce its rules, in particular policies that bar "glorification of violence, platform manipulation and spam."

This essentially means that until the accounts violate Twitter's rules — for instance, by inciting violence — they are allowed to operate. □



Looking for a good woman to marry

Aged Between 30 & 80

I am 55 years old

With a view to Marriage.

Only sincere people.

Please email bio with recent photo.
johnwilliamsfirm1980@gmail.com

Govt sharpens antitrust attack against Facebook with filing

By **MARCY GORDON**
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Federal regulators sharpened their antitrust attack against Facebook, alleging in a revised complaint Thursday that the social network giant pursued a laser-focused strategy to "buy or bury" rivals to suppress competition.

It was the second try by the Federal Trade Commission, after a federal judge in June dismissed antitrust lawsuits brought against Facebook by the agency and a broad coalition of state attorneys general, amid multiplying efforts by federal and state regulators to rein in tech titans' market power.

The new complaint lays out a detailed history of Facebook's conduct, particularly since the arrival of mobile devices like smartphones in the 2010s, and the rise of innovative rivals to Facebook.

The FTC is asking for "any relief necessary," including the potential forced divestiture of assets such as Instagram and WhatsApp, or a restructuring of the company.

Separately, the agency dismissed a request from Facebook that FTC Chair Lina Khan — an outspoken critic of Big Tech appointed in June by President Joe Biden — step aside in this case because of her past public statements. Facebook says Khan's criticism of its market power when she was an academic and the legal director of an anti-monopoly think tank, and her more recent work on a congressional investigation, make it impossible for her to be impartial.

The FTC's general counsel's office reviewed the petition and dismissed the request on grounds that the company's due-process rights will be fully protected in the federal court proceeding. Without Khan's vote, the FTC's case against Facebook could have stalled by splitting the vote between

the four other commissioners — two Democrats and two Republicans. The vote to file the amended complaint was 3-2, with the two Republicans voting against it.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg had ruled in June that the suits were "legally insufficient" and didn't provide enough evidence to prove that Facebook was a monopoly. The ruling dismissed the FTC's complaint but not the case, giving the agency a chance to file a revised complaint.

Boasberg had said the FTC fell short of demonstrating that Facebook holds monopoly market power, failing to provide an estimate for the company's market share over the past ten years. He dismissed the states' separate complaint outright.

In the new filing, the FTC laid out a detailed analysis to substantiate its monopoly power claim. "Direct evidence, including historical events and market realities" confirms the allegation, the complaint says. The harm to consumers from the lack of competition "is particularly severe," it says.

Some of the material meant to show dominant market share is redacted in the public version of the filing, including internal



In this March 29, 2018, file photo, the logo for Facebook appears on screens at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

Facebook emails.

The agency made its case anew Thursday as Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple fall under extreme scrutiny and legislative pressure from the FTC, the Justice Department, European regulators, lawmakers in Congress and state legislatures, and most recently, from an executive order from the Biden White House.

The FTC and 48 states and districts sued Facebook in December 2020, accusing the tech giant of abusing its market dominance in social networking to crush smaller competitors and seeking remedies that could include a forced spinoff of the social network's popular Instagram and WhatsApp messaging services.

The FTC had alleged Facebook engaged in a

"systematic strategy" to eliminate its competition, including by purchasing smaller up-and-coming rivals like Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. □

For Rent or Sale

Paradise Beach Villas

P/O Front WKS 2 & 4- 1 bedr.
WKS 1,8,9,31,32,52, - 2 bedr.
WKS can be switched
Call 941-343-1088 USA

214417



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
Richard Brooks

Sales

Linda Reijnders
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Oduber Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas:

San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



facebook.com/arubatoday/

DaCosta, Peele dare a new generation to summon 'Candyman'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

"Candyman" was always more than a surface level horror film. The 1992 film dealt with class, race and trauma. But almost 30 years later, a new version in theaters Aug. 27 reclaims and recenters the narrative around the Black experience.

The original film took the seeds of a Clive Barker short story set in a Liverpool slum and transported it to Chicago's Cabrini-Green housing projects, where the Boogeyman was Black and the lens to the world was a white female doctoral student studying urban myths. The film was both praised and the subject of pointed critiques from Black filmmakers who noted the regressive racial stereotypes.

"There's no question that this film plays on white middle-class fears of black people," actor-director Carl Franklin told the Chicago Tribune at the time. "It unabashedly uses racial stereotypes and destructive myths to create shock." Franklin said it was, "irresponsible and racist."

But it was also successful enough to spawn two sequels and proved to be a formative film for a young Jordan Peele, who saw it as a landmark for representation. Following the success of "Get Out," Peele and his Monkeypaw Productions set their sights on a "Candyman" film and signed up-and-coming filmmaker Nia DaCosta to direct.

DaCosta had just one indie under her belt, the well-received crime drama "Little Woods," when her agent got wind of a Jordan Peele "Candyman" project.

"I always told (my agent) what I wanted to do and I made 'Little Woods,' which was a really great experience, but I also really wanted to do bigger films, genre



Jordan Peele appears at the Governors Awards in Los Angeles on Oct. 27, 2019, left, and Nia DaCosta appears at the 11th Annual AAFCA Awards in Los Angeles on Jan. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

films and horror and Marvel movies," DaCosta, 31, said. "He introduced them to my work and it just ended up working out...I don't want to pitch for something if I don't really have a clear idea and a passion for what it will be. I think they responded to that level of detail and the passion that I had."

Described as a "spiritual sequel" to the first film, Peele, who co-wrote the script, and DaCosta's "Candyman" put their subjects, a successful gallery director, Brianna (Teyonah Parris), and her visual artist boyfriend Anthony (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II), in modern day Chicago. They live in a luxury apartment in a now gentrified Cabrini-Green. But the rot of the past lingers. A longtime resident played by Colman Domin-

go tells Anthony about the Candyman lore and soon the haunting and the body horror begin anew.

"The art world is very glitzy, glamorous and Brianna is very wealthy and lives in this amazing apartment and Chicago's a gorgeous city," DaCosta said. "I wanted to really juxtapose that beautiful, lush world with the horrors within."

Abdul-Mateen II predicts "Candyman" will be a conversation-starter.

"Outside of the entertainment value, there is an opportunity to really talk about the state of the world," Abdul-Mateen II said. "There's a history of unwanted marks becoming celebrated for reasons that we don't want to be celebrated for. This movie deals with that and says what happens when you

take our stories back."

The themes aren't just backdrops either. The script has characters discussing gentrification and privilege. One character even says white people, "Love what we make, but they don't love us." It was a line that DaCosta felt was especially important to have in the film.

"Sometimes you just have to make the subtext text," DaCosta said. "It really spoke to how as long as we are behaving a certain way and as long as we're producing something that is being consumed or has a place either in a consumerist way or in a respectability way, we're fine. But once you step out of that, once...someone dares to talk back to a police officer or whatever then there is a problem."

Although it's a distinctly different film than "Get Out," with different sensibilities, "Candyman" is poised to inspire and provoke in similar ways.

"It's truly an examination of who we are right now in our culture and hopefully helping to move the

needle and help it get better by going to these dark spaces and unpacking the terror within, the true terror," said Domingo. "Especially the terror that people with Black and brown skin live with every day."

The film was completed in late 2019 for a planned 2020 release but was delayed several times over the past year because of the pandemic. Domingo said after the last year of racial reckoning, it's the perfect time for the film to come out.

"I think that it's timely that it did not come out last year, that we needed to deal with what we were dealing with and be out on the street, raising our voices together to finally having a moment to step back and examine again," Domingo said. "I think we're willing to do the work now."

"Candyman" will also be a breakthrough moment for DaCosta, whose star is continuing to rise with higher profile studio projects.

"She really is like an old school director," Domingo said. "She knows what she wants. She's a very, very elegant director. You see it in every frame of this film."

Two weeks after she wrapped "Candyman," DaCosta immediately went into "The Marvels," a sequel to "Captain Marvel," that's expected to come out next year. The superhero pic reunites her with Parris, who plays Monica Rambeau.

DaCosta has hardly had time to take stock of her own quick ascent in an industry where Black female directors are vastly under-represented in big budget filmmaking.

"This is like my third movie in four years, which is crazy for any sort of person. But I remember a couple of years ago (my manager and I) were like, well five years ago this would not be my career," DaCosta said. "I'm really grateful for it and excited that more spaces are opening up....I'm hoping by making more movies and doing different kinds of movies that more space will be opened up for others." □



LIKE US ON
facebook
[Facebook.com/arubatoday/](https://www.facebook.com/arubatoday/)

Olympic champ Korda shares lead at Women's British Open

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP)

— Nelly Korda's sensational summer form is showing no sign of dipping.

Two weeks after winning a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, the top-ranked Korda began her bid for a second major title in two months by shooting 5-under 67 to share the first-round lead at the Women's British Open on Thursday.

Korda rolled in a 5-foot putt at No. 18 at Carnoustie for her eighth birdie of a round that also contained three bogeys in overcast, chilly but largely wind-free conditions over the links in eastern Scotland. She was later joined on 5 under by Sweden's Madelene Sagstrom, who has never recorded a top-10 finish at a major, and South Korea's Sei Young Kim, a major champion last year and the No. 4.

The 23-year-old Korda is the new superstar of women's golf, having climbed to No. 1 by winning the PGA Championship in June and followed that up by winning the Olympic golf tournament in Tokyo this month. The American has four wins in 14 events in 2021 and said she has a "target on my back" for the last of the five majors.

"I try to take the mindset of every day's a new day," said Korda, who is a combined 87 under par for her last 21 rounds. "It doesn't matter what my ranking is. Everyone's going into this event prepared and wanting to win."

"That's kind of like the mindset that I try to take into ev-



United States' Nelly Korda looks at her putt on the 18th green during the first round of the Women's British Open golf championship, in Carnoustie, Scotland, Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

ery event."

The Women's Open is her first event since the Olympics and she carried the momentum to Carnoustie, holing a left-to-right 20-footer for birdie at No. 3 — the first of three birdies in a four-hole span to immediately throw down the challenge to her rivals. Korda, who wore bulky, oven-style mitts between shots at times during chilly morning conditions that contrasted with what she experienced in Tokyo, rebounded from her second bogey of the day, at No. 12, by making a downhill putt for birdie at the next and picked up another shot at the par-5 14th after reaching the green in

two.

She finished birdie-birdie by hitting her approach close at No. 18 with an 8-iron from the center of the fairway.

"Very happy," Korda said of her start. "Honestly, we didn't have much wind today. It was very chilly in the morning — that was the only thing against us. Other than that, the wind kept calm and I took advantage of it."

Korda has been on the road for six weeks, because of her appearances at the Evian Championship in France — the fourth major of the year, where she placed 19th — and then the Olympics, where she had a one-shot victory.

"A little tired but I am going to give it my all these next three days, go home next week, and have one week at home. Sleep in my bed for the first time in six weeks — that will be nice," she said. "And then Solheim and we start up again."

The 77th-ranked Sagstrom was playing in a group containing European Solheim Cup captain Catriona Matthew, just behind Korda, and will have left a positive impression ahead of the naming of the six wild-card selections on Monday.

She birdied four of her first six holes and twice held a two-shot lead on her back nine. She kept her round going with some decisive

par putts but couldn't do so at No. 18 after finding a bunker to the right of the fairway off the tee. She hit out to leave herself a tough up-and-down for par, but leaked her par putt right.

"Of course I want to show off my game to her, I can't deny that," Sagstrom said of Matthew.

"I mean, I'm playing well at the moment. Who knows where her mind is at right now?"

Kim is in the mix at another major having won one for the first time at the PGA Championship last year. She also finished third at the ANA Inspiration in April.

Her only dropped shot was at the par-4 15th, which she reached in the lead after making birdie at No. 14 to move to 6 under.

Georgia Hall of England, the 2018 champion, bogeyed the last to drop out of the lead and to 4 under alongside an unheralded playing partner in 21-year-old Scottish amateur Louise Duncan, who goes to Stirling University in Scotland.

"It was a ridiculous amount of fun, I wasn't expecting that at all," said Duncan, who made an eagle and four birdies. "I was so nervous at the start. I was shaking and could barely put the ball on the tee. To actually make contact and it go straight was a bonus."

Former major champion Lexi Thompson was in a group at 3 under, while defending champion Sophia Popov chipped in for birdie at No. 1 on her way to shooting even-par 72. □

Cort Nielsen wins Vuelta 6th stage, Roglic reclaims lead

ALTO DE LA MONTAÑA DE CULLERA, Spain (AP)

— Magnus Cort Nielsen won the sixth stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Thursday after holding off a hard-charging Primož Roglic, who took back the red leader's shirt with his second-place finish.

Cort Nielsen was part of an early five-man breakaway on the mostly flat 158.3-kilometer (98.3-mile) ride along Spain's eastern coast. The

Danish sider for EF Education had just enough left to cross the finish line first ahead of Roglic at the top of a short but steep ascent near the Cullera Castle overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

It was the fourth stage win at the Spanish Grand Tour for Cort Nielsen, who also has a stage win at the Tour de France.

"It was very close in the end," the Dane said. "I

looked back with 150 meters to go and could see Roglic was coming. I was sprinting with everything I had and luckily I could keep him behind me."

Roglic, the two-time defending Vuelta champion, reclaimed the race lead that he had held for the first two stages.

Kenny Ellisonde lost the lead he held for one day after he struggled throughout the final stretches of the

stage.

Crosswinds whipping across rice fields over the final 30 kilometers broke the peloton into groups as it wound its way through narrow tracks. Ellisonde was caught behind and had to work hard with his Trek-Segafredo team to catch up to the head of the peloton, only for him to fade again in the final two-kilometer (1.2-mile) ascent. Roglic, the Jumbo-Visma

leader, is followed in the general classification by three Movistar riders: Eric Mas is 25 seconds behind, closely followed by teammates Miguel Ángel López and Alejandro Valverde. Former Tour winner Egan Bernal of Ineos is 41 second off the pace.

On Friday, riders will face a mountainous 152 kilometers (94 miles) from Gandia to a first-category summit finish at Balcón de Alicante. □

Biles: Mental health advocacy part of post-Olympic tour

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP Sports Writer

Simone Biles didn't plan for her second Olympics to become a flashpoint in the evolving conversation about the role proper mental health plays in all levels of sports.

Then again, she's hardly complaining. If anything, she's leaning into it.

The American gymnastics star has no regrets about her decision to opt-out of five of the six finals in Tokyo because of a mental block, calling it a small price to pay if it lets others realize they retain the right to say "it's OK not to be OK" no matter how bright the spotlight.

"I wouldn't change anything for the world," said Biles, who left Japan with a silver medal from the team competition and an individual bronze on balance beam. "I gave an outlet for athletes to speak up about their mental health and their well-being and learn that you can put yourself (as a person) first before the athlete."

It's a message that will be part of the post-Olympic Gold Over America Tour



Simone Biles performs on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's apparatus final at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, in this Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

Biles is headlining this fall. The 35-city exhibition, which kicks off in Tucson, Arizona, on Sept. 21, will incorporate gymnastics and dance elements but also feature a segment led by former UCLA gymnast Katelyn Ohashi on the importance of taking care of yourself mentally.

"We wanted to make it as

relatable as possible and let these kids know that we've been going through these things," Biles said.

Biles will be joined on Tour by Olympic teammates Jordan Chiles and Grace McCallum as well as MyKayla Skinner and Jade Carey. Chiles and McCallum earned a silver in the team competition while

Skinner won silver on vault and Carey earned gold on floor exercise. Biles qualified for the finals on all four apparatuses in Japan but pulled out of three of them to deal with "the twisties," meaning she lost her air awareness and didn't feel it was safe to compete.

She returned to capture a bronze on beam, tying her

with Shannon Miller for the most career Olympic medals by an American gymnast (seven). Asked if she had any clarity on what might have brought on "the twisties," Biles thinks it may have been the buildup of various issues she's faced over the last several years.

"I mean, I'm in therapy. I go to therapy pretty religiously," she said.

"And it's just something that took hold of me (where) your body and your mind tells you when enough is enough."

While Biles' decision received the predictable backlash on social media, she called the support she's received since returning from Japan two weeks ago overwhelming.

"It's been so supportive, so loving, which I really wasn't expecting," she said, calling the response on par with what she received after coming back from the 2016 Olympics with four gold medals, five in all.

It's one of the reasons why Biles is excited about the tour, one that she believes will differ from the post-Olympic tours formerly run by USA Gymnastics. □

Tigers analyst Jack Morris suspended for Ohtani remarks

By **DAVE HOGG**

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Tigers broadcaster Jack Morris has been suspended indefinitely for racist comments he made about Los Angeles Angels star Shohei Ohtani during Tuesday's game.

When asked by play-by-play announcer Matt Shepard how the Tigers should pitch to Ohtani in the sixth inning, Morris adopted an exaggerated East Asian accent while saying "be very, very careful." When Ohtani came back up in the ninth, Morris issued a lengthy apology. "It's been brought to my attention and I sincerely apologize if I offended anybody, especially in the Asian community, for what I said about pitching and being careful to

Shohei Ohtani," Morris began, before going on to talk about his respect for Ohtani's talent.

Bally Sports Detroit announced the suspension Wednesday.

"Bally Sports Detroit is extremely disappointed with the remarks analyst Jack Morris made during last night's Tigers game," the network said in a statement. "Jack has been suspended indefinitely from Tigers broadcasts and will be undergoing bias training to educate him on the impact of his comments and how he can be a positive influence in a diverse community. We have a zero-tolerance policy for bias or discrimination and deeply apologize for his insensitive remark."

The Tigers, who retired

Morris' number after he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, issued a similar statement.

"The Detroit Tigers take immense pride in honoring the diverse cultures that make up our players, coaching staff, front office, fan base and community," the team said. "We are deeply disappointed by the comments made by Jack Morris during the broadcast last night. We fully support Bally Sports Detroit's decision and their ongoing commitment to ensure that all personnel are held to the highest standards of personal conduct."

The incident comes 31 years after Morris, during his playing days, told a young female reporter that he "only talks to wom-



Former Minnesota Twins pitcher Jack Morris gives former Twins manager Tom Kelly the ball for the first pitch as the members of the 1991 Minnesota Twins World Series champions were honored before the baseball game between the Twins and Tampa Bay Rays, Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

en when I'm naked if they are on top of me or I'm on top of them." Morris, who was not naked at the time, was defended by then-

team president Bo Schembechler, who blamed the Detroit Free Press for sending a female reporter into the clubhouse. □